

Serial No.: 10/608/043

Filed: June 27, 2003

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed December 14, 2006. In the Office Action the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, wherein the Applicants were required to select between the inventions designated by the Examiner as Group I (claims 1-7), Group II (claims 8-28), or Group III (claims 29-53).

In response, Applicants select the claims of Group III for examination, namely claims 29-53, with traverse.

There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions. First the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed. Second, there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if a restriction is not required. MPEP 803. In the present matter, Applicants respectfully submit that, at a minimum, there would not be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required.

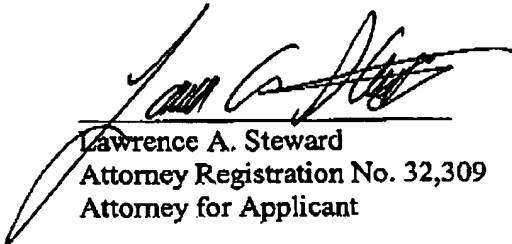
The Examiner has already carried out a search of all claims 1-53, and issued an Office Action on June 30, 2006, related to these claims. The Office Action included rejections of all of the claims 1-53 in view of various prior art references cited in the Office Action. Following receipt of the Office Action, Applicants provided arguments in response to each of the cited references. The Examiner agreed with the Applicants' arguments, and withdrew the rejections of the previous Office Action. Since the Examiner has already carried out an examination of the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that maintaining all claims in one application would not impose a serious burden in the Examiner. Similarly, since Applicants have already addressed one set of rejections of all claims 1-53, it is unfair to require them to now address potential rejections of the various claim groups in separate applications.

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Accordingly, the restriction requirement is respectfully traversed. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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